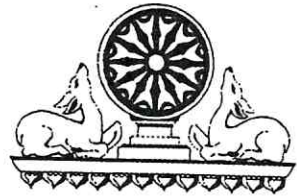


Barre Center for Buddhist Studies



BASIC STRATEGY FOR TRANSLATING FROM PALI TO ENGLISH

- 1) Read the passage through.
 - a) Look for repeating phrases
 - b) Look for rhyming endings
 - c) Look for other recurring patterns
- 2) Identify *sandhi*
 - a) Restore original spellings
- 3) Identify vocatives
 - a) Once identified, bracket and ignore
- 4) Identify verbs
 - a) Look for prefixes (easiest to find)
 - b) Look for roots
 - c) Look for endings
 - d) Check for agreement with nouns (e.g. singular or plural)
 - e) Find the dominant verb, identify the subordinate verbs (if any)
- 5) Find verb participles (past and present)

Note: these may be inflected as a noun, but they are derived from verbs

 - a) Determine the meaning of the participles
 - b) What do they refer to? Connect them with appropriate nouns, etc.
- 6) Find remaining nouns
 - a) Recognize the subject of the sentence
 - b) Find all words associated with subject subject
 - c) Other nouns (and adjectives)
 - check case ending
 - check vocabulary meaning
 - check grammatical role
- 7) Identify clusters of subordinate phrases (bracket these)
- 8) Put it all together!
 - a) Write out a literal translation
 - b) Try to capture the basic meaning
 - c) Rearrange word order as needed
 - d) Craft a final translation that captures the meaning and works in English